

RKA Family Newsletter

Dear RKA Family,

I am very pleased with the way the new school year has started off. Things are going well with the new New York State **wi-fi ban** overall, and it is wonderful to see students engaged in classes and with each other throughout the day!

I want to highlight a few things—in addition to our excellent graduation rate and college acceptances—that you may not be aware of, but which I believe make us one of the more attractive high schools in New York City. Our **Pathways Program, NYS Seal of Biliteracy and of Civic Readiness**, and new **Peer Group Connections** Program have added a new level of enrichment and engagement to our students. Please read more about them on our new **"Academic Supports" page** later in the newsletter.

Our Academic Clubs—like Science Olympiad, Model UN, and Debate, continue to grow and to thrive. I'm especially pleased that our Model UN group—composed of both middle school and high school students—chose to host their very own conference last week right here at RKA, called **ROARMUNC!** This required a tremendous amount of preparation and work, and it was amazing to see it come together and to see our high school students mentoring and guiding their middle school peers.

We have students, staff, programs, and offerings here at RKA for all our students—but these newer, or "upgraded" options really speak to the spirit of constant reflection and improvement that I and many of the staff at RKA thrive in and embrace year-round. I can't wait to see where they take us!

Sincerely,

Lori O'Mara
Principal

End of MP 1—10/17

Report Cards viewable—wk of 10/27

5th Grade Parent Tours—10/17, 10/24, 11/7,
11/14, 12/5, 12/12

ROARMUN (Model UN conference)—10/18

Diwali (schools closed)—10/20

High School Open House—10/21, 10/22 & 11/17

Nat'l Jr Honor Society mtg—10/21

High School Halloween Dance—10/23

RKA PA Car Wash—10/26

RNH Open House—wk of 10/27

5th grade Parent Info/Student Panel—10/28

ENL Tutoring starts —10/28

Middle School Athletics start—10/28

7th Grade Broadway trip—10/29

Fall Into Reading begins—11/3

RKA PA meeting (virtual)—11/5

Election Day (no classes)—11/4

Fireside Chat (virtual)—11/5

Middle School Dance—11/6

Veteran's Day (schools closed)—11/11

SLT meeting —11/13

Senior Spirit Week —wk of 11/17

Scholastic Book Fair —wk of 11/17

Senior Dinner—11/12

Nat'l Jr Honor Society mtg—11/18

Parent Teacher Conferences —11/20 & 11/21
(half day of classes 11/21)

Wrestling Team Pancake Bkfst—11/22

Nat'l Honor Society mtg—11/26

You Make a Difference—11/26

End of MP 2—11/26

Thanksgiving (schools closed)—11/27 & 11/28

Fall Into
Reading



Book Fair
Week

All through November! Fun, and lots of prizes!



6th Grade!

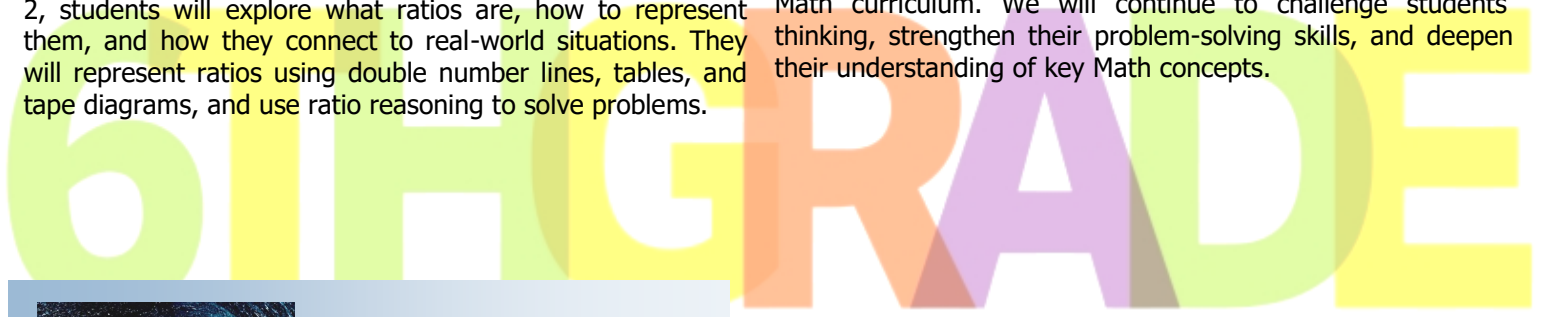


Mathematics

We recently wrapped up our first unit on Area and Surface Area, learning how to find the area of various polygons, and how to use nets and polyhedra to find surface area. In unit 2, students will explore what ratios are, how to represent them, and how they connect to real-world situations. They will represent ratios using double number lines, tables, and tape diagrams, and use ratio reasoning to solve problems.

Math Through Technology

We recently finished the i-Ready Math and Reading diagnostic assessments. These tools help the school, district, and city track academic growth and identify areas where students may need additional support or enrichment. With that done, we now focus on learning experiences that complement the Core Math curriculum. We will continue to challenge students' thinking, strengthen their problem-solving skills, and deepen their understanding of key Math concepts.



English Language Arts

We have worked hard analyzing *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan for theme and point-of-view. Moving forward, we will begin writing an essay comparing and contrasting the same theme from the book and from the movie version.

Social Studies

Using the NYCPS *Passport Curriculum*, students have been examining the world through the lens of Geography. They have located places we will study, while practicing their map-reading skills. We have been learning about prehistoric times and the many adaptations humans made in order to survive and thrive. Next, we will discover how these adaptations created the foundations of complex civilizations, such as Mesopotamia and Egypt. We continue to work on comprehension skills and supporting claims with evidence from reliable sources as we further develop our writing, listening, and speaking skills.

Literature

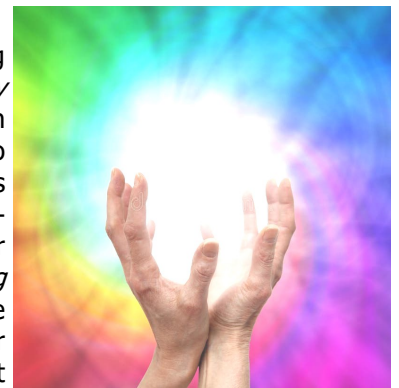
Students are working in groups to select their first text based on their interests and reading level. Each group will collaborate to create their own reading schedule and are expected to finish their first novel by the end of November. In class, we will examine the exposition of their stories, focusing on the setting, characters, and point of view. Be sure to ask your child about their book! In Honors Literature, students are reading *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle and will soon begin reading *When You Reach Me* by Rebecca Stead.



Students will be analyzing the author's use of references to *A Wrinkle in Time* throughout the novel.

Science

We are using an engaging curriculum called *Amplify Science*. This literacy-rich program enables students to take on the role of scientists and engineers to solve real-world problems. In our recent unit, *Harnessing Human Energy*, we were challenged to find a way for rescue workers to get electrical energy to the



devices they use on missions far from electrical outlets. We've learned about sources of energy and ways to capture them. In our current unit of *Thermal Energy*, we are thermal scientists working in a fictional schools, helping to choose a new heating system.



7th Grade!



Spanish

We continue to learn about Identity, Customs, and Traditions, focusing on authentic culture and real-life communication using Spanish. Through completing activities, students employ critical thinking skills as they compare the Spanish language and culture with that of their own community. Currently, we are learning countries and their capitals, gestures for meeting and greeting, introductions, and months, seasons, numbers, days and dates. We also worked on the Hispanic Heritage project incorporating an assigned country's history, flag, foods, and notable people.



Social Studies

As we wrap up Marking Period 1, we continue work on our first unit, *The Earliest Americans*, building on our collaborative strategies as well as our start to *Thinking Maps*. The unit's end also brings us a unit test. In MP 2, we will transition into *The Colonial Era*. We also look forward to implementing District-Based Modules to improve students' reading comprehension skills.

Literature

Students are working collaboratively to read and understand a book they chose as a group. Titles include, *Ghost Boys*, *Rings of Fire*, *Esperanza Rising*, and *Hunger Games*. Together, they analyze a story using the following steps: identify the setting, characters and conflict; identify how they try to solve the conflict; identify how the conflict is ultimately solved.

Literature Honors Enrichment

In a few days, we will finish reading Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*, and begin to compare it thematically with Steinbeck's *The Pearl*, which we finished in September. We will then work on an essay about both books. Next up: Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*.

English Language Arts

We are currently reading *A Long Walk to Water*, by Linda Sue Park, an account of a young boy's escape from the Sudanese Civil War. Our next assignment will be a compare-and-contrast essay, in which students will have to note similarities and differences between the novel and other works of non-fiction about the same topic.



Core Mathematics

We have finished our unit on Scale Drawings, in which we learned how to identify, identify, interpret, and create scaled copies and drawings—skills that lay a strong foundation for our next major focus: Proportional Relationships. In unit 2, we will explore what proportional relationships are, how to represent them, and how they connect to real-world situations. We'll analyze tables, determine constants of proportionality, write equations, and interpret graphs—building on grade 6 work and preparing for grade 8. Next up—Circles!

Math Through Technology

After finishing our i-Ready diagnostics, we learned how to use graphic organizers to strengthen our Math vocabulary so we can become true Math scholars! Then, we explored how to annotate math texts to help us extract and understand the information. To summarize unit 1, we created scale drawings of the planets' distances in our solar system which are on display in our classroom.

Math Honors Enrichment

We recently finished the i-Ready Math and Reading diagnostic assessments. These tools help the school, district, and city track academic growth and identify areas where students may need additional support or enrichment. Now, we begin a Scale Drawing project, creating detailed drawings of our classroom, using a variety of measurements and scales. This hands-on project helps students apply their understanding of proportional relationships, precision, and spatial reasoning in a fun and creative way.

Science

We are taking on the role of medical students in a fictional hospital analyzing the metabolism of world-class athletes. We'll learn how body systems work together provide the trillions of cells in the human body with the molecules they need. By exploring how athletic training improves the body's function, students learn how energy is released in the cells through cellular respiration and how that energy supports movement and cellular growth and repair.

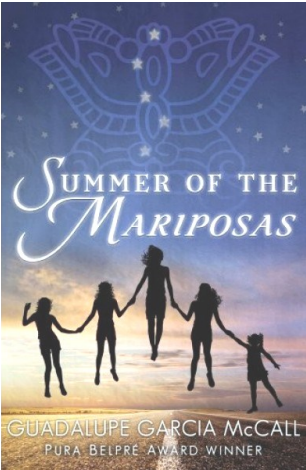
8th Grade!



Social Studies

As we close out Marking Period 1, we have completed our earliest units: *Reconstruction*, and *The Industrial Revolution*. We continue to build on collaborative strategies and their own speaking and listening skills. We will also be having a unit test. In MP 2, we will transition into our Immigration Unit and the use of Thinking Maps. We also look forward to implementing District-Based Modules to improve students' reading comprehension skills.

English Language Arts

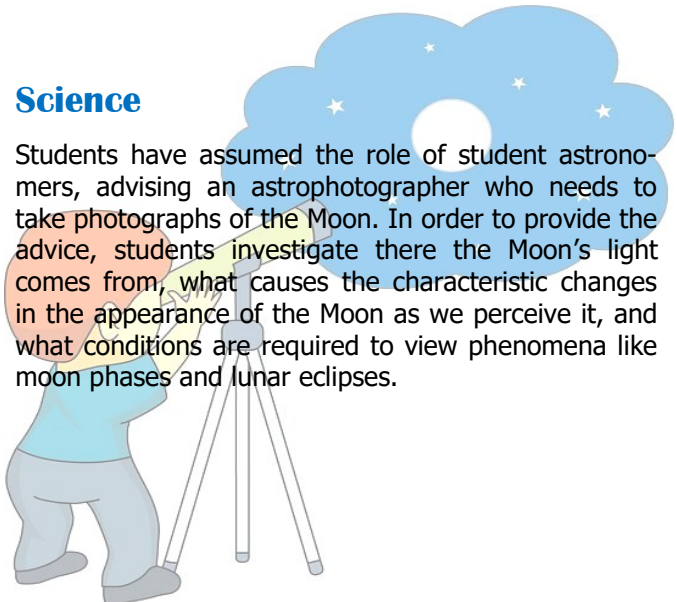


We have been reading *Summer of the Mariposas*, by Guadalupe Garcia McCall. As we read the book as a class and independently, we engage in discussions and activities analyzing how theme, central idea, point-of-view, figurative language and other key elements of ELA play an essential role in shaping our understanding of the narrative.

We will also explore Latin American folklore, learning to engage with a new culture. We will soon begin our end-of-year assessment project: Folklore Monster Narrative. We will engage in a number of drafting activities to guide their thinking and their story development.

Science

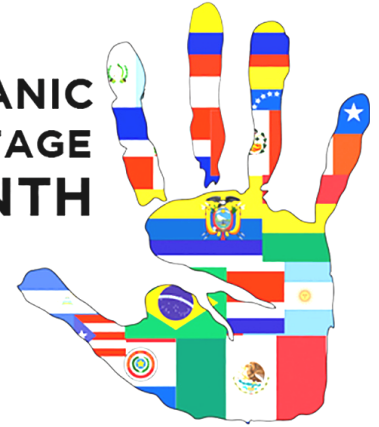
Students have assumed the role of student astronomers, advising an astrophotographer who needs to take photographs of the Moon. In order to provide the advice, students investigate where the Moon's light comes from, what causes the characteristic changes in the appearance of the Moon as we perceive it, and what conditions are required to view phenomena like moon phases and lunar eclipses.



Spanish

Students are enhancing their language skills and developing a deeper understanding of Spanish-speaking cultures. We celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with a mock wax museum honoring the contribution of notable Hispanics. We have also started to review basic Spanish vocabulary from last year, and continue to compare the practices of the Spanish-speaking cultures and our own communities.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH



Core Mathematics

We have finished our first unit on Rigid Transformations and Congruence. Students learned about rotations, reflections, and translations. In unit 2, we explore another type of transformation known as a dilation; we will learn how transformations can relate to similar triangles and finding slope.

Math Through Technology

We have completed our beginning-of-the-year diagnostic assessments for both Math and ELA. We will be supporting our Math students by practicing rotations, reflections, dilations, and translations on the coordinate plane. This marking period has also included an exploration of slope, proportional relationships, and graphing linear equations.

Algebra

We are finishing up our unit on Linear Equations and Inequalities. We will revisit this topic later in the year. Now, we turn to a unit on Data and Statistics. Students will learn how to make data displays, build mathematical models, and make predictions.



High School English Language Arts

Grade 9

We kicked off this school year with a narrative writing unit focused on the theories of Growth Mindset and Neuroplasticity and how these can set students up for success in high school. Through the writing process, we examined the unhelpful ideas we have about ourselves, and how "training our brains" can help us become more successful both in school, and life in general!

Grade 11

All high school ELA classes started the year with a skills-based unit. Focus is intense, as we prepare for the Regents exam and the SATs. We are reading and analyzing our personal essays, polishing them through the drafting process. We are reading academic and popular articles and using them to write persuasive essays to prepare for college work we will be doing in the future.



Grade 12

Students have completed their personal statements in anticipation of college applications and

scholarship opportunities. We are excited to be starting a lengthy unit of comparative literary analysis as we read Yann Martel's *Life of Pi*, and other philosophical texts.

AP Seminar

We are practicing core skills in order to complete a mock-task for the AP exam. Students will generate a question in their group and conduct research. The group will produce a research report on the topic of their choice.

Grade 10

We are participating in a unit around Ernesto Quinone's *Bodega Dreams*. It is an exploration of identity through the lens of young LatinX characters growing up in New York City. An essential question is, "Does our environment affect and influence our ability to succeed?" Analyzing the central idea of the text is a skill essential to the ELA Regents students will take in the 11th grade.

AP English Language & Composition

We began the year with a skills-based unit, as did all high school ELA classes. Our focus is intense as we prepare for both the Regents exam and the SATs. We are practicing higher-level close reading, evidence-based writing, and entry-level public speaking skills. We have polished our personal essays through the drafting process. Next, we will "flip the classroom," and students will teach lessons through primary documents. We will read academic and popular articles on the Salem Witch Trials and use the materials to write persuasive essays, preparing them for college work in the future.

AP English Literature & Composition

Using John Trimble's *Writing With Style*, and also inspired by reading "New Journalism" essays, we have all written our college essays. We are now focusing on college academic skills, reading and analyzing essays on current topics, like, disability, homelessness, and racial profiling. Students will write their own essays on these topics and participate in "Fishbowl Socratic Seminar" discussions.

Journalism

We are preparing to publish the year's first issue of *The Gazette* next month. Students are completing interviews with other students, staff, and administrators, on a variety of subjects impacting the RKA community—ranging from the NYC mayoral race, to RKA's newest club offering! Look for it to "hit the stands" in early November!



FISHBOWL METHOD

High School Mathematics

Algebra

We wrapped up We started the year with unit 1: Patterns and Sequences, using *Amplify Desmos*. We used technology to explore relationships, and learned that there are different types. Students modeled, compared, and contrasted arithmetic and geometric sequences, using tables, recursive definitions, expressions, and graphs. In unit 2, we discuss Linear Equations and Inequalities, modeling real-life situations using various representations. We are blending paper-based learning with digital explorations. Heading into unit 3, Describing Data, we will analyze one and two-variable data using dot-plots, histograms, and box-plots, and using measures of central tendency to analyze data.

Algebra 2

We have started the year learning all about Polynomial Functions—including various factoring techniques necessary for both Precalculus and Calculus. Moving forward, we will learn how to divide polynomials, solve various systems, and how polynomials are used in rational expressions and equations. We will also learn about domain restrictions and asymptotes.

AP Precalculus

We just competed some review of previous years in Math, ramped-up to AP level. Students have made great strides in being able to explain their thought processes using formal mathematical language. Moving forward, we will continue our study of polynomial and rational functions, and create models to represent real-world situations. Soon, we will begin our unit on exponential functions.

Statistics

We wrapped up our unit on One-Variable Data, learning to graph and describe data using measures like mean, median, IQR, and standard deviation. Now, we are working on unit 2, and Normal Distribution, exploring the famous bell curve, z-scores, and how “normal” data really is. It is shaping up to be a standard-deviation-above-average kind of unit!

Personal Finance

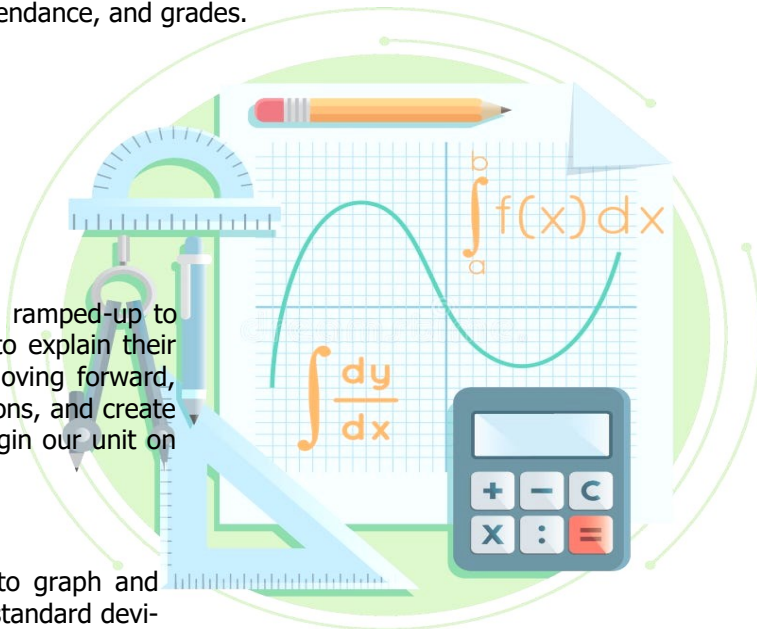
Students began the year recognizing and analyzing different cognitive biases in our society as it relates to the way we spend money. We can't avoid them completely, but we have to address them and work on recognizing them when they occur. We have moved on to Banking, learning about the kind of accounts banks offer. Our next unit will be on Investing; students have already started taking part in the nationwide competition “The Stock Market Game.”

Geometry

We are in the second unit covering Congruence. We study congruence, triangle proofs, angle relationships and properties of quadrilaterals. We work together through Amplify activities to discover properties of congruent shapes with the understanding of how to apply rigid transformations to prove corresponding congruent parts and angle relationships. Please check JupiterEd for updated assignments, attendance, and grades.

AP Calculus AB

We have covered most of the Derivative Formulas and analyzed instantaneous rates of change and acceleration and acceleration in real-life circumstances. Now, we analyze the more complicated derivative formulas. Next, we will analyze the applications of derivatives with graphing, theorems, and real-life scenarios. We have also been working on problems from AP Collegeboard in preparation for the AP Calculus AB exam. Please check JupiterEd for updated assignments, attendance, and grades.



Math in Media & Marketing

We started the year learning how data can be manipulated in graphs. Students created their own drafts, and also redrew graphs that had been manipulated already, and discussed the motivations behind the manipulations. Now we look at mal-information, rumors, misinformation, and all the ways the population gets their news. We will learn about statistical data and how it is measured, and how to check for margin of error. Errors in measurement can lead to errors in reporting, and even errors in political decision-making. Next, we will learn about the math behind Gerrymandering.

High School Social Studies

Global History & Geography—Grade 9

Students began the year learning about the Paleolithic Age, and how early humans hunted and gathered food to survive. Next, we learned about the importance of the Neolithic Revolution in creating organized society and—ultimately—civilization. We recently started a unit on River Valley Civilizations, including Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, and China.

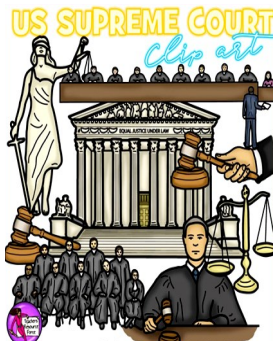
Global History & Geography—Grade 10



We are working on a unit on political revolutions, focusing on the following topics: the causes, events, and impacts of the French Revolution; the Reign of Terror; the reign of Napoleon; the Congress of Vienna; and the Latin American revolutions of the 19th century. Students are working with a variety of primary and secondary sources, engaging in assignments that foster creativity and critical thinking, and honing their skills on Regents-related tasks. We will be working with Charles Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities*, Students will be required to develop their own personal perspectives related to the French Revolution.

Government—Grade 12

We recently completed a unit on the foundations of American democracy and are set to start working on landmark cases of the Supreme Court. Students continue working on their major semester project—Project ACTION, for advocacy of student-selected political issues in preparation for their final portfolio and for speech presentation.



AP Psychology

We have just finished learning about Cognition. We discussed different kinds of memory, and how memories form in the brain. A big topic of interest was how to improve one's memory. We discussed in detail about the process by which information is encoded, and how short-term memories become long-term memories. We talked about forgetting and the misinformation effect. Of course, we discussed the famous Loftus Experiment—learning how words used when describing an event can affect your memory of the event. This is one of the reasons that eyewitness testimony can't always be trusted. We also learned about how we learn language. Next up: research methods and ethics.

AP U.S. History

We are currently studying the American Revolution, having completed our unit on the British American colonies. Students completed a series of in-class assessments: a short-answer question about the role of religion in the colonies, a DBQ essay on colonial slavery, and a multiple-choice quiz + test. In our upcoming work, we will delve into the extent to which historians agree about the "revolutionary" nature of the American Revolution.

U.S. History—Grade 11

We are wrapping up our 1st Marking Period with our study of the American Revolution and the early forms of national government: the Articles of Confederation and the transition to the U.S. Constitution. Students completed a multiple-choice test, and an in-class document-based short essay on the causes of tension between America and Great Britain in the 1760s.

AP African American Studies

Students have been working on their historical quilt pieces to fuse symbolism from the Underground Railroad into a creative pattern and on composing a written summary of their influences. We will be tying the pieces together to form a quilt to gift to Ms. Loving for her tireless efforts to make this course possible at RKA and for her continued support of AP AAS.

Law

We started our year by learning about the importance of laws in society. Students learned how laws reflect a nation's values; when a nation's values change, laws can change, too. In addition, students did a deep dive into the six factors that make up the "Rule of Law," learning how it is important for a fair and functioning government. Students watched, read, and learned about modern examples where the rule of law was weak, and where it was strong.



High School Science

Forensics

We have been learning how investigators use scientific evidence to identify who has committed crimes. We will explore how even a single hair or clothing fiber can help to reconstruct a crime scene. Students will study *Locard's Exchange Principle*, the types of evidence collected, and the steps of a real crime scene investigation—from securing and documenting the scene, to analyzing trace evidence in the lab.

Bioethics

We are finishing our investigation into Anti-Microbial Resistance, during which we set up our students into different "countries" to put together global plans for a mock United Nations summit.

Child Development

Our first unit detailed the major theories of Child Development. Students created their own graphic novels, incorporating theories from Piaget, Vygotsky, Freud, and Skinner. Now, we begin our unit on Parenting! Student will gain some insight into the world of their parents!



Nutrition & Wellness

We have completed our unit on nutrition labels and its components. Students completed a lab to understand just how much sodium they need, in comparison to the foods they eat.

Biology

We have been studying a unit on Africa, covering topics like genetics, evolution, energy transfer, and biodiversity. The content is presented through a story-based format, which helps students understand the connections between different biological principles and how they apply in a real-world context. In the "lulu the Lioness" case study, we will collect and analyze data to understand the lion population dynamics, genetics, and evolution.

Earth & Space

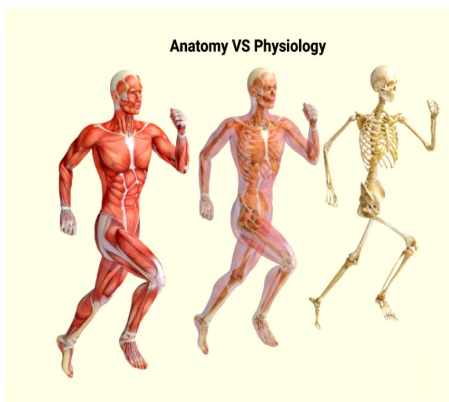
This class will challenge our students to think like scientists. They will actively investigate the complex, interconnected systems that shape our world and govern the universe. We will explore answers to the big questions like: Why does the earth have earthquakes and volcanoes? What drives our weather and climate? How do we read the story told by rocks? How do humans impact our planet? What is our place in the universe? We will develop models, construct evidence-based arguments and analyze real-world data to try to answer these questions.

AP Biology

This course allows students to receive college credit. We just finished our first unit on the Chemistry of Life. We reviewed basic chemistry, explored the properties of water, and learned about the basic building blocks of life. Now we are investigating the structure and function of cells and will soon move on to Cellular Energetics.

Anatomy & Physiology

During our course of study, we will investigate the following topics and systems: orientation of the body, the chemistry of life, cellular structure and function, histology, and all the major systems of the human body. We will be taking a deeper, rather than a wider, perspective of the human body. Students will have the opportunity to learn thousands of new terms and concepts—this course may even be considered as learning a whole new language! The challenges are great, the rewards worth the effort!



AP Environmental Science

Students are developing an understanding of how Biodiversity—which includes genetics, and species and habitat diversity, are critically important to ecosystems. In subsequent units, students will examine in great details, how populations change over time.

Chemistry

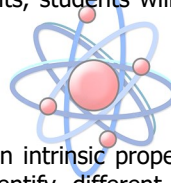
Students explored density as an intrinsic property of matter, learning how to calculate it and use it to identify different substances. They traced the evolution of Atomic Theory, focusing on how protons, neutrons, and electrons determine each element's behavior. NeXT, we will learn about Chemical Bonding, the forces that hold atoms together to form molecules and compounds and explore how these bonds explain the structure and properties of different substances.

Physical Science

This course is designed to serve as a foundation for other high school courses, especially Chemistry and Physics. We recently completed a unit on the scientific method. We reviewed lab basics, measurement, and the nature of Science. Now we are investigating motion and forces.

Psychology

We are learning about the history of Psychology—from its philosophical roots to its emergence as a scientific discipline. We will learn how foundational figures like Freud and Skinner continue to influence Psychology today, Next us, we will study the brain and body and how brain structures influence behavior, thoughts, and emotions.



High School Spanish

Spanish 1

Students have just completed their class project and are presenting this week. Now we are beginning our unit in which we learn to greet others, spelling their names, the days of the week, and how to say the date. We will also reflect on how seasons are different in different parts of the world.

Spanish 2

Having completed our Hispanic Heritage program, we are beginning to review what we learned in Spanish 1. We will focus on identifying and describing people, talking about likes and dislikes, describing how they feel and what they are doing. We will learn about the grammar points: definite articles, subject pronouns, adjectives, regular and stem-changing present-tense verbs, and irregular verbs such as *ser*, *estar*, *tener*, and *ir*.

Spanish 3

We recently finished our Hispanic Heritage Project, in which students researched and presented on traditional Spanish instruments. Our presentations were creative, and showed great appreciation for the culture of the Spanish-speaking world. Now we are reviewing concepts from last year, including: present-tense verbs and stem-changers, adjective agreement, and basic conversation and question formation. This review will strengthen our foundation as we prepare to expand our vocabulary, grammar, and speaking skills.



You can support your child's learning at home by encouraging them to review vocabulary a few minutes each day, to complete their assignments, and to use Spanish whenever possible. Read labels that come in Spanish. Try listening to Spanish music and watching Spanish TV!



Día de los Muertos
or, *Day of the Dead*,

is a tradition in Mexico that reunites the living and the dead! *El Museo del Barrio* is a New York City museum dedicated to Latinx/o art and culture. This year, they are hosting a Super Sabado event to celebrate! November 1st, from Noon to 6:00 PM. Register online at elmuseo.org.

Wave Hill in the Bronx also has a celebration all day on November 2nd. Check the calendar at wavehill.org.

Spanish for Spanish Speakers

We recently finished our first unit, where we discussed the importance of our heritage, bilingualism as a "superpower," and wrapped up our Hispanic Heritage Month activities. The next marking period begins with a baseline exam to assess student growth throughout the year, after we will begin module 4, which focuses on careers and professions. We will learn about the importance of manual labor and field work, professional careers, and relationship between the location of South Central America and the jobs/activities in the region, and the requirements and obligations to get a job.



AP Spanish Language & Culture

We will be familiarizing ourselves with all parts of the Advanced Placement exam, which students will take in May. As we are doing this we are working on our first themes: educational communities, Values and customs, and families and communities. We will continue by working in the contexts of Family Structures, Global; Citizenship, Human Geography, and Social Networking. Students will be required to write various email replies and cultural comparison presentations.



Physical Education

Our first two units have included Soccer and Football. In soccer, we worked on skills like dribbling, passing, and shooting, as well as offense and defense. We ended the unit by playing small-sided games. IN football, we worked on the skills of throwing, catching, running, passing routes, and playing offense and defense. We have played catching and throwing games, as well as two-hand touch football games.

Soon we will start Wiffleball and learn skills like hitting, pitching, throwing, catching, and running the bases. We will complete this unit with a big game!

Throughout the semester, students will also work on Fitnessgram testing, with assessments including height and weight, the PACER test, sit-ups, push-ups, and flexibility tests. There are graded on performance.

Please be prepared for class, wearing an RKA t-shirt, athletic bottoms, and sneakers (not Crocs or slides)! Safety is key!



and Health

We have had an exciting and productive start to the year. Students have truly immersed themselves within our classroom discussions and assignments. The students have lead many of the discussions, which have focused on "Healthy Living"— a combination of physical/intellectual/emotional well-being. The class has demonstrated a commitment to incorporating changes (nutritional, exercise-based, and relaxation/meditation) to improve the quality of their lives. We will learn how to manage stress, and also about mental and emotional wellness and building healthy relationships. Let's also learn about making smart choices in our nutrition and physical activity!



Short-sleeve
RKA Tees
2/\$25.00



RKA141.org/spirit-store
RKAPA.VPMERCH@gmail.com

New!
Carolina Blue
long sleeve!
\$25.00



RKA Wrestling Team
Pancake Fundraiser!
Sat, November 22nd



Arts & Letters



Core Art



In middle school classes, 6th graders are working on creating superheroes inspired by Edgar Degas! (Check out the cool drawing by student Marjahan M!) 7th graders are studying artist Charles White to create drawings of their favorite musicians. Some 6th and 7th graders are working on still lifes. 8th graders are creating interiors inspired by the chair drawings of Vincent Van Gogh, or self-portraits inspired by Frida Kahlo.

NOW is a GREAT time to visit the newly-reopened Frick Museum, right here in NYC! www.frick.org.

In the Library....

The RKA Library website is <https://library.nycenet.edu>. The website provides access to the RKA library collection, digital books, e-books, and other online data bases, including:

MyLibraryNYC—You can sign in with your NYC Public Schools email and password. Provides enhanced library privileges and access to NYCPL's unparalleled digital resources. www.mylibrarynyc.org

World Book Encyclopedia—Access at school or at home! Tens of thousands of index entries. Abundant photos, maps and illustrations supplement the easy-to-read text. Share, email, and save to Google Classroom! www.worldbookonline.com. See Ms. Loving for user ID and password.

NovelNY—Provides e-resources to all NYC residents—full-text articles in newspapers, magazines, and scholarly journals. <https://novelnewyork.org>

Soraapp—Read frss audiobook, magazines and graphic novels from school. Sign in with your school ID and password. www.soraapp.com.

The Black Student Union & Allies Club has had its first meeting. All are welcome to join! Our Fall/Winter newsletter will be released at the end of December, and will cover many important and pertinent topics. Fetun S. and Ramatoulaye B. are the club presidents and are exploring and curating themes for the year, including the Black History Month Gallery Walk later in the school year!

Vocal Music

In the first few months of school, we have been building our basic skills in singling, playing ukelele, and the keyboard, while developing the literacy needed to read rhythm, read pitch, follow a choral score, and understand elements of music like meter and time signature. We are now working on our sings that will be presented at the Winter Arts Festival .

Ceramics

Students are learning the ins and outs of working with clay and making their work viable for firing in the kiln. The three major techniques are pinch pot, slab, and coil. With these new skills, they will be able to create much of their ceramics artwork. Next, we will focus on the glazing process.



Multimedia Production

Students are exploring how storytelling, technology, and creativity come together to shape the media we see every day. From typography and sound design to photography and video production, students learn to plan, create, and edit professional-quality projects. This hands-on course encourages teamwork, critical thinking, and innovation—helping students become skilled, thoughtful, media creators in a digital world.

Instrumental Music

Our 6th and 7th grade band students have chosen their instruments and are learning their first notes and songs from our Method Book. 8th grade students are learning how to build and play many major scales, and have already learned two full-length pieces. High School guitar students have learned at least twelve chords and different strum patterns while playing a variety of songs from the 1950s to the present. Many students have joined Morning Honors Band, which meets every Tuesday and Thursday morning before school. All these groups are building their skills so that they will be able to perform at the Winter Arts Festival on December 16th at 7:00 PM.



Instrumental—December 16th
Vocal—December 18th
Visual Arts—Both nights!



November 4th—**NO CLASSES**

Support the
RKA PA Bake Sale!

RKA141PA@gmail.com



**SENIOR SPIRIT
WEEK!**

11/17-11/21



RKA PA
Car Wash

Sun, Oct 26

10:00-2:00

at RKA!



Veterans Day
November 11
Schools Closed



**SAVE
THE
DATE**

Thurs, Nov 20

5:30-8:00

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Fri, Nov 21

1:00-3:00

(half-day of school)

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

College & Career Explorations

RKA students were met with hope and enthusiasm as our College Career Explorations class hit the ground running! Eleventh grade students realized the importance of this year in terms of their college/career process, and have been researching schools and programs in the CUNY and SUNY systems, while also learning the function of a free and fair public education system. They have practiced writing personal narratives in preparation for writing their college essays next year, and are learning strategies of goal-setting and time narrative. Twelfth graders are in the college process, as we speak—SUNY and CUNY applications have opened! Students are also exploring private universities, majors of the 21st century, and other career options. The RKA College Fair put on by our wonderful guidance staff was a big success, and we have been doing follow-up work since. This year, we are meeting in the computer lab, so students have access to computers to do the research and explorations that are necessary at this time.

Guidance Corner





AFTER-SCHOOL TUTORING



**TUES* WED*
THURS**

**BEGINS AT 2:45
SNACK
PROVIDED**

**@ RKA
660 W 237TH ST
BRONX, NY**



**GENERAL
HW HELP
ESPECIALLY FOR
STUDENTS NEEDING
A QUIET STUDY
SPACE
AFTERSCHOOL
ROOM 210 & 212
MS & HS**

**VARIOUS HS
REGENTS
COURSES
3RD FLOOR
LIST HERE**

**ENGLISH
LANGUAGE
LEARNERS
ROOM 124
MS & HS**

***DON'T WAIT
UNTIL THE
LAST MINUTE
...GET HELP
TODAY!***

Academic Enrichment

Pathways Programs

Every year, we host a college fair with over 60 colleges in the tri-state area. This year's event was no exception, and was very well-attended by our families—both parents and students. We are also having school-day visits from college representatives from great universities like Dartmouth, American, and Columbia. All always comment on just how impressive our students are. We also have high school Pathways Days once a month, which include in-class lessons on things like financial literacy, so students can carefully consider the costs of their future plans.

New York State Seal of Biliteracy/New York State Seal of Civic Readiness

Students have had the opportunity to earn the NYS Seal of Biliteracy in a number of languages, a seal which distinguished their high school diplomas. We are now beginning our pursuit of the NYS Seal of Civic Readiness. For both, students engage in traditional and extra-curricular study and research to demonstrate an understanding of, appreciation of, and knowledge in, the corresponding area. The seals make graduates more attractive to potential universities and employers. We have already met

Academic Clubs

These include Science Olympiad, Debate, and Model United Nations. Participation in these clubs not only enhances students' day-to-day experience in their classes, but demonstrates to colleges and potential employers a drive to excel, and a genuine interest in these areas. As stated in Ms. O'Mara's front-page letter, we are especially proud of our Model UN students for initiating and hosting our very own Model UN Conference here at RKA—ROARMUNC!

Peer Group Connections

This program has been very well-received by our 9th grade class. PGC is a course in the high school that teaches 11th and 12th graders about mentoring and running collaborative discussions with younger high school students. Our older students have a lot to be proud of—9th graders are not always easy to impress! They are doing a wonderful job at building community and supports for our Freshmen, and they all enjoy sharing this time together.

